

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 4, 6 and 10, cancels claims 2, 3, 5, 7-9 and 15-23 and leaves claims 11-14 unchanged. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 4, 6 and 10-14.

The disclosure stands objected to by the Examiner in paragraph 5 of the Office Action. Amendments were made to the Specification to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner and other minor errors discovered upon review. Entry of the amendments to the Specification is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 8 and 20-23 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Sindhu (U.S. Patent No. 5,905,725); claims 7 and 15-18 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sindhu in view of Momirov (U.S. Patent No. 6,320,859); and claim 9 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sindhu in view of Spinney (U.S. Patent No. 5,414,704). As indicated above, claims 2, 3, 5, 7-9 and 15-23 were canceled. Therefore, these rejections are rendered moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the above noted rejections is respectfully requested.

It should be noted that the cancellation of claims 2, 3, 5, 7-9 and 15-23 was not intended nor should it be considered as an agreement on Applicants part that the features recited in claims 2, 3, 5, 7-9 and 15-23 are taught or suggested by Sindhu, Momirov or Spinney. The cancellation of claims 2, 3, 5, 7-9 and 15-23 was simply intended to expedite prosecution of the present application. Applicants hereby reserve their right to pursue the subject matter as set forth in claims 2, 3, 5, 7-9 and 15-23 in a continuing application.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication in paragraph 11 of the Office Action that claims 12-14 are allowed and claims 4, 6, 10 and 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Amendments were made to claims 4, 6, 10 and 11 to place them in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, claims 4, 6, 10 and 11 are allowable as indicated by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 4, 6 and 10-14 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of the present application based on claims 4, 6 and 10-14 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of BRUNDIDGE & STANGER, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-4888 (1213.43382X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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